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12 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT : Weekly Activities Report

No
3-18 March 1971

1. The new Language Incentive Program regulation has been approved and will be published within the coming week. We have no way of knowing how large the program will become, but there is no question that it will have an impact on the Language School. Enrollments may increase slightly; proficiency testing will definitely increase; and there will be a certain amount of new administrative work, since we will initiate the form which authorizes payment of awards. Since any language which a component needs may now be designated an incentive language, the new program has potential for becoming very large. It should be held down, however, by the fact that the components themselves will be paying the awards - which can range from \$500 to \$2,000 - instead of OTR.

2. To meet the needs of Agency personnel who are interested in obtaining language books for self study, we are setting up a file of suitable materials, including addresses where they can be obtained. We do not supply books and tapes for self study except on loan through our library, nor do we normally stock this type of material, particularly for languages we do not teach. Telephone inquiries, however, will now be handled by [REDACTED], who is coordinating the development of the reference file.

3. As the final exercise in a Swedish course that ended last week, the students and instructors went on a field trip that included an exhibition of Swedish photography at the Library of Congress and a visit to a fountain in Falls Church done by Sweden's most famous sculptor, Carl Milles. Swedish was the only language spoken, and the excursion proved to be an excellent way to use the language in an informal, non-classroom environment.

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4. The Linguistic Steering Committee again discussed the question of substituting numbers for adjectives (e.g. "Slight", "Elementary", etc.) and unanimously endorsed the idea of investigating what the obstacles are to making this change in Agency language proficiency reporting. Per the IG report of 1966(?) we are under obligation to make our proficiency rating system conform to that of the FSI and other government agencies. We have tried to do this internally at IS, but there is still a long way to go before the change is effected in all Agency records of language proficiency. The Committee feels that it is time to begin the final push to eliminate this source of chronic confusion.

5. Language School Statistics

Students and Classes as of the week 1 - 5 March 1971:

Students

Full-time - 105
Part-time - 176 (54 BAHLT)
(72 Hqs.)

Classes

Full-time - 36
Part-time - 56 (8 BAHLT)
(12 Hqs.)

Laboratory hours for the week of 1 - 5 March 1971:

Language School - 180
Headquarters - 58

There were 18 proficiency tests given during the week of 1 - 5 March 1971.

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Acting Chief, Language School

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